

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /070 W
-----109738 240305Z /75

R 231603Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 086
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
/USDEL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IS, JO
SUBJECT: GUSH EMUNIM ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENT AT SHILO

1. ABOUT 350 GUSH EMUNIM SUPPORTERS JANUARY 23 FORMALLY
ESTABLISHED AN UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT AT THE ANCIENT SITE
OF SHILO WHICH IS NEARLY THE GEOGRAPHIC CENTER OF THE WEST BANK.
GUSH LEADERS HANAN PORATH AND RABBI LEVINGER ATTENDED.
GOI EDUCATION MINISTER ZEVULUN HAMMER, WHO HAD REPORTEDLY
AGREED TO ATTEND, DID NOT. IT WAS ALSO RUMORED AT THE SITE
THAT INTERIOR MINISTER BURG MIGHT COME, BUT HE HAD NOT ARRIVED
BY MID-AFTERNOON. ALTHOUGH THE CEREMONY WAS NOT APPROVED
BY THE GOI, THE IDF WAS NONETHELESS STANDING GUARD. THE
CEREMONIES INCLUDED SPEECHES, THE PLANTING OF
TREES (NOTE: JANUARY 23 WAS ISRAELI ARBOR DAY.),
AND INSTALLATION OF TORAH SCROLLS.

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2. THE SHILO SITE IS OFFICIALLY APPROVED AS A TEMPORARY
RESIDENCE FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS. HOWEVER, THE TRAILERS
PRESENT ARE OCCUPIED BY GUSH EMUNIM MEMBERS OF THE SHILO SETTLEMENT
NUCLEUS UNTIL RECENTLY LODGED AT OFRA. RABBI LEVINGER JANUARY
23 SAID: "SHILO WILL BECOME A VILLAGE, THEN A CITY."

3. SHILO IS A PURELY CIVILIAN SITE LOCATED ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE ARAB VILLAGE OF TURMUS 'AYYA. IT IS A SMALL, ROCKY HILL OF ABOUT 6 ACRES SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES BY CULTIVATED, IMPROVED LAND WHICH IS APPARENTLY THE PROPERTY OF THE NEARBY VILLAGE. WHEN QUERIED, GUSH EMUNIM MEMBERS SAID THE SITE WAS OWNED BY NO ONE OR THE STATE. WHEN PRESSED, SOME SAID IT DID NOT MATTER WHO HAD OWNED THE LAND PREVIOUSLY.

4. PRESENT FACILITIES AT SHILO INCLUDE 13 TENTS, EIGHT TRAILERS, FIVE HUTS, AND TWO STONE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

5. CEREMONIES WERE WELL COVERED BY AMEREICAN PRESS INCLUDING NEWSWEEK, NYT AND LA TIMES.
NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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